



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

BURUNDI – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

May 14, 2004

Note: the last situation report was dated April 1, 2004.

BACKGROUND

Since 1993, armed conflict in Burundi has claimed 300,000 lives and displaced 1.3 million residents. According to preliminary reports from the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), more than 141,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) currently live in 182 camps inside Burundi, and sporadic attacks temporarily displace an estimated 30,000 residents each month. An estimated 800,000 Burundians live as refugees, the majority residing in neighboring Tanzania.

Approximately 14 percent of Burundi's 6.8 million people are Tutsi, while 85 percent are Hutu, and 1 percent is Twa (Batwa). Prior to the current power-sharing government, the Tutsi minority had maintained political, military, and economic power almost continuously since national independence in 1962. The current cycle of violence began in 1993 when members of the Tutsi-dominated army assassinated the first freely elected President, a Hutu. In August 2000, 19 Burundian political parties signed a Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in Arusha, Tanzania, agreeing to an ethnically balanced army and legislature and democratic elections. In November 2001, President Pierre Buyoya, a Tutsi, became the first leader of the transitional government, and, in April 2003, Domitien Ndayizeye, a Hutu, assumed the presidency for the second half of the three year transition. By October 2003, a 2,600-member African Union Mission in Burundi (AMIB) peacekeeping force had arrived to assist in the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) of opposition forces and provide military observers to disengagement zones.

The negotiations leading to the Arusha Peace Accords did not include representatives from the two major armed groups opposed to the Government of Burundi (GOB). In November 2003, following a comprehensive peace agreement, the GOB formed a new government to include the National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD), led by Pierre Nkurunziza. In January 2004, the other main armed opposition group, the Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People-Forces for National Liberation (PALIPEHUTU-FNL), led by Agathon Rwasa, met with the GOB for the first time, but has not participated in a cease-fire. Although PALIPEHUTU-FNL continues sporadic attacks, most areas in Burundi have become more secure in recent months, leading to an increase in the return of IDPs and refugees from camps in Tanzania. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that 150,000 to 175,000 Burundian refugees may return in 2004.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
IDPs	141,192	UN OCHA – April 2004
Refugees in Burundi	40,971, most from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	UN OCHA – March 2004
Burundi Refugees (Estimate)	800,000, most in Tanzania	UN OCHA – March 2004
Refugees Repatriated Since 2001 (Facilitated and Spontaneous Returnees)	2001-2003: 148,000 2004 to date: 35,808 Total to date: 183,808	UNHCR – April 2004

Total FY 2004 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Burundi (to date)\$8,309,907
Total FY 2004 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Burundi (to date).....\$30,146,685

CURRENT SITUATION

Implementation of peace agreement. On May 3, according to international media reports, CNDD-FDD announced its withdrawal from the transitional government, citing delays in President Ndayizeye's nomination of governorships, administrators, and ambassadors. Although President Ndayizeye has since made several of the requested political appointments, the CNDD-FDD announced on May 10 that it will continue the boycott until all appointments have been completed.

As of April 2004, an estimated 1,171 child soldiers have been demobilized in Burundi since the national child demobilization program began in January 2004. According to the head of the GOB national child soldier demobilization program, children have either returned to their families or are waiting in transit sites. Families of demobilized children are scheduled to receive up to \$20 per month in non-food items, for a period of 18 months. The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) is supporting the demobilization program through partners who provide

psychosocial support and facilitate reintegration. Approximately 3,000 children have been registered to demobilize to date, out of an estimated 6,000 to 7,000 child soldiers in Burundi.

U.N. peacekeeping force to replace AMIB. In May 2004, the U.N. Security Council is scheduled to respond to the U.N. Secretary General's (UNSG) request to replace AMIB with a U.N. Mission in Burundi (ONUB). A March 2004 UNSG report anticipates that ONUB will consist of 5,650 troops, including observers and staff, and a civilian component of 1,050 people. In preparation for the October 2004 elections, ONUB would disarm opposition forces, collect weapons, and train the Burundi National Police. In addition, ONUB would promote the rule of law, coordinate assistance in support of the elections, and report on human rights abuses. In the interim, AMIB has extended its mission until July 2004, and the Implementation and Monitoring Commission of the Arusha Accords is urging former armed groups to complete assembly in pre-cantonment sites by May 15.

Sporadic insecurity in western Burundi. Although the PALIPEHUTU-FNL has voiced its willingness to negotiate with the GOB several times, no progress has been achieved to date. On April 22, PALIPEHUTU-FNL representatives declared a unilateral cease-fire. However, on April 22, after renewed attacks in Bujumbura Rural Province, each side accused the other of renewing violence.

Localized fighting between the PALIPEHUTU-FNL and the Burundian Armed Forces, in some cases in cooperation with the CNDD-FDD, continued throughout April and early May 2004, leading to frequent short-term population displacements. Fighting was concentrated in Bujumbura Rural Province's southern Kabezi, Mutambu, and Muhuta communes. As of April 30, USAID/OFDA field reports indicated 40,000 IDPs in Bujumbura Rural Province remained temporarily displaced, staying in churches, school buildings, and in the homes of extended families or neighbors. Due to continuous insecurity, the Italian non-governmental organization (NGO) Gruppo Volontariato Civile (GVC) suspended operations in a therapeutic feeding center (TFC) in Kabezi, transferring patients to the Gatumba TFC in Mutimbuzi Commune, northern Bujumbura Rural. Attacks also occurred in the surrounding provinces of Bubanza and Bururi, but no population displacements were reported.

IDP numbers decrease. Improved security throughout most of Burundi has enabled nearly half of the IDP population to return home since 2002, according to the preliminary report from a UN OCHA survey of IDP sites.¹ There are currently 141,192 IDPs at 182 sites, compared with 281,628 IDPs at 230 sites in 2002. Nearly 60 percent of the remaining IDPs have expressed a willingness to return home.

¹ Although the official UN OCHA report has not been released yet, preliminary figures are available.

Repatriation of Burundian refugees. As security conditions improve, Burundian refugees gradually are returning from neighboring Tanzania. Of the estimated 797,824 Burundian refugees in Tanzania, 311,000 live in UNHCR refugee camps. UNHCR estimates that 470,000 Burundian refugees do not receive relief assistance, including refugees who fled Burundi in 1972, and refugees who are integrated into local Tanzanian villages. Between 2001 and 2003, an estimated 148,000 people repatriated to Burundi either spontaneously or through UNHCR facilitation, although it is not known how many of these returnees fled back to Tanzania during subsequent periods of instability.

Since September 2003, UNHCR has opened new border entry points in northeastern Cankuzo and western Ruyigi provinces to facilitate increased refugee returns. UNHCR facilitated returns were expected to increase to 15,000 per month in April, but rains have delayed the opening of a third border crossing in Makamba Province until June. If the situation in Burundi continues to remain stable, the greatest challenge in the coming months may be to prepare for large-scale refugee returns. UNHCR projects that 150,000 to 175,000 refugees may return in 2004. To date, 35,000 have returned in 2004.

According to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Burundi's most important planting season occurred in April, and the next significant harvest is not expected until January 2005. As a result, refugees returning during this period will have missed the planting season and will require food assistance. In addition, returning refugees may face difficulty reclaiming their land, as homes and farms left empty were likely occupied during the conflict.

DRC refugees transferred. From February to May 2004, UNHCR reported that 4,465 DRC refugees, previously located at Cishemeye camp in western Cibitoke Province, were transferred to Gasorwe camp, eastern Muyinga Province. The Gasorwe camp now houses an estimated 8,168 DRC refugees, including the nearly 4,000 DRC refugees transferred in 2002.

Joint U.S.-European Union (E.U.) Mission. From March 29 to April 2, the U.S. Government (USG) and the European Commission undertook a joint monitoring mission to assess the situation of the displaced and the conditions of return for the hundreds of thousands of Burundian IDPs and refugees. USAID/OFDA's Emergency Disaster Response Coordinator (EDRC) and the Economic Officer for the U.S. Embassy in Burundi participated in the mission. In Ruyigi Province, eastern Burundi, the joint mission visited an IDP and returning refugee site at Kabuyenge and a reception center Gisuru. In western Tanzania, the joint mission visited Kanembwa and Mtendeli refugee camps. The joint mission also met with representatives from the GOB, implementing partners, and the donor community.

Food Assistance. USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) traveled to Burundi from April 13 to 18 to review the U.N. World Food Program's (WFP) plan for refugee returns. Currently, UNHCR expects an average of 12,500 to 15,000 returning refugees per month. WFP is prepared to provide food aid for up to 23,000 returnees per month and can re-orient assistance from Tanzania should a mass return scenario unfold. WFP's strategy is to provide an initial three-month ration to returnees at the transit centers and then provide further assistance to those eligible under WFP's vulnerability criteria, which includes widows, orphans, and the chronically ill. WFP has adopted this approach to minimize tension between returnees and the non-displaced. USAID/FFP also met with several NGOs and U.N. agencies to discuss possibilities for moving food assistance toward recovery and rehabilitation-oriented activities.

Health. After cholera outbreaks occurred in several provinces from December 2003 to March 2004, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported that there were no epidemics in Burundi during April 2004. The potential cholera outbreak in Bubanza and Cibitoke provinces, caused by the suspension of water services in February due to lack of payment, stabilized in March.

In March 2004, the GOB Ministry of Health (MOH) and WHO facilitated follow-up activities to monitor the new malaria treatment protocol. USAID/OFDA supported the development of the protocol, which was launched in November 2003. According to USAID/OFDA field reports, the MOH has developed a plan of action, identified six sentinel sites to detect side effects, trained health personnel, and defined a follow-up mechanism. Malaria is the leading cause of death in Burundi, representing 50 percent of all medical consultations.

In May 2004, the results of a Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) health care access survey concluded that mortality rates in Burundi range from 1.2 to 1.6 deaths per 10,000 persons per day. High mortality rates are due in part to unaffordable health care costs. More than 99 percent of Burundians live below the absolute poverty line, with incomes of less than \$1 per day, and 85 to 90 percent of Burundians live on less than \$1 per week.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On October 1, 2003, U.S. Ambassador James H. Yellin redeclared a disaster in Burundi due to the continuing conflict and insecure humanitarian situation. USAID/OFDA's FY 2004 program focuses on emergency response in the sectors of nutrition, emergency health, food security, and water and sanitation, while strengthening the local capacity of early warning and crisis management structures to respond rapidly to and mitigate new crises. To date in FY 2004, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$8 million in emergency relief assistance through six NGOs and five U.N. agencies. USAID/OFDA's EDRC in Bujumbura

continues to monitor USAID/OFDA-funded programs and assess the overall humanitarian situation.

USAID/FFP is supporting WFP's Regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), which targets more than 1.2 million vulnerable Burundians. WFP aims to maintain and improve the nutritional status of refugees, IDPs, returnees, and other vulnerable populations while promoting the recovery and rehabilitation of livelihoods at the community and household level. To date in FY 2004, USAID/FFP has provided an estimated 35,250 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at approximately \$18.4 million.

In support of peace process advances, USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) has provided nearly \$3.4 million in FY 2004 to date. USAID/OTI promotes community-based reintegration through implementing partners PADCO, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (WWICS), and the local NGO African Strategic Impact (ASI). USAID/OTI's program includes community-based leadership training, vocational skills training, small-scale infrastructure rehabilitation, and media programming.

To date in FY 2004, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided \$82.3 million in unearmarked funding to UNHCR and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to support Africa programs, including those in Burundi. In addition, State/PRM funds a multi-million dollar program for care and maintenance of Burundian refugees in Tanzania and the DRC.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
FY 2004 (To Date)			
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
CONCERN	Nutrition, Food Security	Bujumbura Rural, Bururi	\$254,182
CRS	Non-Food Items, Food Security	Bubanza, Kirundo, Muyinga	\$1,300,000
GVC	Health	Kirundo, Muyinga	\$400,182
IMC	Health, Nutrition	Muyinga, Rutana, Kirundo, Muramvya	\$786,070
IRC	Water and Sanitation	Makamba, Bujumbura Rural, Bujumbura-Mairie	\$999,843
Solidarités	Food Security, Agriculture	Gitega	\$200,000
UN OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$550,000
UNFAO	Coordination, Food Security	Countrywide	\$500,000
UNICEF	Health, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$1,400,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Transport	Countrywide	\$1,247,630
WHO	Coordination, Health	Countrywide	\$200,000
Administrative	Administrative Support	Bujumbura, Nairobi	\$472,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$8,309,907
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	35,250 MT P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$18,455,623 ²
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$18,455,623
USAID/OTI ASSISTANCE			
PADCO, WWCIS, ASI, Administrative	Community-based reintegration	Countrywide	\$3,381,155
TOTAL USAID/OTI			\$3,381,155
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI IN FY 2004			\$30,146,685
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI IN FY 2004			\$30,146,685

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of May 14, 2004.

² Estimated value of food assistance.



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USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/.